

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7975

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TW

SUBJECT: SURPRISES IN LEGISLATIVE YUAN ELECTIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: TAIPEI A-240

1. THE RESULTS OF THE DECEMBER 20, 1975 LEGISLATIVE YUAN (LY) ELECTIONS OFFERED NO SURPRISES. ALL 35 INCUMBENT CANDIDATES WERE REELECTED. OF THESE 29 WERE KMT, FOUR INDEPENDENTS, AND TWO YCP. THE REMAINING TWO SEATS (ONE NEWLY CREATED IN THE FIRST DISTRICT WHICH WAS NOT CONTESTED BY THE KMT AND ONE OPEN BECAUSE THE KMT INCUMBENT CHOSE NOT TO STAND FOR RE-ELCTION) WERE WON RESPECTIVELY BY 37 YEAR-OLD INDEPENDENT LIN JUNG-SAN (2651/2837/0005) AND 34 YEAR OLD KMT CANDIDATE WANG CHIN-PING (3769/6855/1627).

2. ALL THEREE TELEVISION STATIONS CARRIED LIVE REPORTS ON THE VOTE TALLYING BEGINNING AT 2100 DECEMBER 20 AND LASTING UNTIL THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF DECEMBER 21. BASED ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TELEVISION REPORTS, THE HARDEST FOUGHT ELECTIONS

APPEARED TO BE IN THE FIRST DISTRICT (ILAN, TAIPEI COUNTIES AND KEELUNG CITIES) AND IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT (KAOHSIUNG, PINGTUNG, AND PENGHU COUNTIES AND KAOHSIUNG CITY), WHERE NON-KMT CANDIDATES KUO YU-HSIN (6753/7183/2450) AND YEN MING-SHENG (7346/2494/5110) LOST WHAT INITIALLY APPEARED TO BE VERY CLOSE RACES.

3. THE MOST WELL-KNOWN INDEPENDENT INCUMBENT CANDIDATE, KANG NING-HSIANG (1660/1380/4382) FROM TAIPEI MUNICIPALITY, WON HANDILY BUT THE NUMBER OF VOTES HE RECEIVED WAS WELL UNDER THAT OF THE LEADING KMT INCUMBENTS. ACCORDING TO PRESS COMMENTARY, THE RELATIVELY POOR SHOWING BY KANG AND SOME OTHER INDEPENDENTS WAS ATTRIBUTIBLE TO THEIR "ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNMENT." HOWEVER, KANG'S FAILURE TO ATTRACT MORE SUPPORT MAY BE PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF THE LOW VOTER TURNOUT IN TAIPEI MUNICIPALITY (59.3 PERCENT), WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY BENEFITED THE KMT MACHINE.

4. ON DECEMBER 20 THE GENERAL ELECTION OFFICE ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF THE 15 SUPPLEMENTAL LEGISLATORS SELECTED FROM THE OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITY. NINE OF THOSE SELECTED WERE INCUMBENTS. NAMES AND BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE FIFTEEN WILL BE REPORTED BY AIRGRAM.

5. COMMENT: IN GENERAL, THE KMT SHOULD BE VERY SATISFIED WITH THE ELECTION RESULTS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH KMT "PRINCIPLES" SET FORTH EARLIER, ALL INCUMBENTS RETAINED THEIR SEATS AND THE ONE NEW KMT CANDIDATE WAS ELECTED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TAIPEI MUNICIPALITY, VOTER TURNOUT WAS HIGHER THAN EXPECTED (72.77 PERCENT), PROBABLY REFLECTING THE STRONG EFFORTS OF KMT CADRE TO TURN OUT THE VOTE.

6 WE HAVE NOT YET HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF INDEPENDENTS ON THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS AND THEIR RESULTS. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THEY UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE OF THEIR FAILURE TO WIN ANY SEATS CONTESTED BY THE KMT. POPPLE

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